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JPRS L/9642

2 April 1981

# Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 15/81)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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WORLDWIDE REPORT  
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS  
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BURMA

BRIEFS

OPIUM SEIZED IN PEGU--Pegu, 26 Feb--A police party led by No (1) Police Station Commander U Kaung Sein seized two viss of raw opium from the house of Daw Khin Myint of Kyidawgon 1st Street here on the night of 21 February. The police arrested Tin Htoo, Aung Soe Lin and Ko Pwa who were involved in the transaction of opium. The police party later seized one more viss of opium from inside Tin Htoo's bedroom. Police are taking action against the three under the Narcotic Drugs Law.--(063) [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 28 Feb 81 p 8]

CRACKDOWN ON DRUG ABUSE--Rangoon, 1 March--Police arrested 42 men and four women under the Narcotic Drugs Law in various townships in Rangoon Division in January 1981. Of the total of 35 cases opened against them under the Narcotic Drugs Law, one was connected with opium, four with heroin, 16 with marijuana and 14 with failure to receive treatment. Police seized .010 kilogrammes of opium, 4.75 grammes of heroin, 7.327 kilogrammes of marijuana and two hypodermic syringes from the offenders. (H) [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 4 Mar 81 p 8]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

HEROIN PEDDLING CENTER SMASHED--Hongkong, Mar. 8 (AFP)--Customs officers here yesterday smashed a suspected heroin peddling center and seized 2.4kg (5.3 lbs) of No. 3 heroin valued at 200,000 U.S. dollars. Following intensive investigations, the officers intercepted a 13-year-old girl in Tsz Wan Shan shortly after 3 p.m. and found on her 0.5 kg (1.1 lbs) of No. 3 heroin. Subsequent raids led to the seizure of 1.9 kg (4.2 lbs) of heroin and the arrest of four men and a woman. A quantity of dangerous drug cutting paraphernalia was also seized. Those arrested have been charged with possession of dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking and will appear in court tomorrow. [Text] [Taipei THE CHINA POST in English 10 Mar 81 p 6]

CSO: 5300



INDIA

BRIEFS

COURSE ON DRUG CONTROL--The 12-day international training course-cum-seminar on narcotics control and enforcement concluded in New Delhi today. The course, which was organized by the Directorate of Training, Customs and Central Excise, was attended by 19 representatives from 7 neighboring countries. The seminar covered a wide spectrum of subjects relating to drug law enforcement and considered training arrangements for officers in this field. The seminar had provided a forum for free exchange of views about the systems of narcotics control in the participating countries, the organizational and legislative arrangements and operational techniques adopted for the purpose. [Text] [BK221025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 81 BK]

CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

FIVE MORPHINE DEALERS ARRESTED--Jakarta, Monday--A Jakarta gang of morphine dealers was arrested toward the end of January by the Metro Jaya 7th Police Region Command, MERDEKA learned today. The five members of the gang, who were picked up separately, usually distributed the narcotic in the vicinity of Kancil and Lusupan Alleys in Tanah Tinggi. The police raid yielded only 5 grams of brown morphine powder as evidence. MERDEKA learned that the five arrested were TTL, of Keamanan Street in the Keagungan, Mangga Besar neighborhood, THL, from Mangga Besar, THT and FSR, with addresses in Galur, Central Jakarta, and Sym, residing at Keamanan Street, West Jakarta. Police report that one of the gang is a chronic narcotics offender who had just been released from Cipinang Prison. They also say that besides being traffickers, the five were habitual drug users themselves. It is not clear where the gang obtained its morphine supply. The Metro Jaya 7th Police Region Command conducted the raid on 22 January 1981. [Text] [Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 10 Feb 81 p 3] 9792

CSO: 5300

JAPAN

BRIEFS

STIMULANT DRUG ARRESTS--Kyoto 3 Mar KYODO--Five gangsters and 63 others have been arrested here in connection with largest stimulant drug trafficking operation ever unearthed in Kyoto, police said Tuesday. Police also seized 90 grams of stimulants with a street value of yen 27 million. Arrested were Sueo Ota, 37, and four other members of the Okuta-Gumi gangster organization, along with 63 people suspected of buying stimulants from them. Twelve of the customers were high school students or teenagers. Police said Ota's group had been operating from a number of apartments in southern Kyoto since 1973, but recently had set up a new and elaborate sales hideout. Using a rented room with a triple door and electronic locks, police claim, the group sold stimulants 24-hours-a-day through the letter-box or a special slot window in a "vending machine" type process. Police estimate the group handled 40 or 50 customers a day, with monthly sales totaling around yen 25 million. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 3 Mar 81 OW]

CSO: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

AUCKLAND DRUG RAIDS--Auckland, Feb 10 (PA)--An early morning swoop over the city by 100 detectives and uniform police ended in 31 arrests on a total of 85 drug and property charges. Detective Chief Inspector R.N. Macdonald said more arrests would be made in the next few days, but only in "dribs and drabs." Many of the large number of houses visited today were searched under warrant. The police seized LSD, DMA, hashish, prescription poisons and cannabis. Property recovered included a car, stereo cassettes, photographic equipment, watches, antiques, clothing and bicycles to a total value of about \$20,000. Those arrested will appear in the Auckland, Takapuna and Henderson District Courts on charges of selling, supplying, dealing, cultivating and possessing class A, B and C controlled drugs, and charges of burglary, receiving stolen property, and theft. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 11 Feb 81 p 6]

CHRISTCHURCH DRUGS SYNDICATE--A 25-year-old Christchurch man changed his plea to guilty in the Auckland District Court when he faced three charges of importing drug drugs. Murray James Ritchie, self-employed painter, was convicted and remanded in custody until March 20 for sentence by Judge Bryan Nicholson. Sergeant Gary Robertson said Ritchie's movements had been monitored by the Christchurch police who were investigating the activities of a Christchurch drugs syndicate. On January 1 Ritchie applied to the Reserve Bank for \$2300 in overseas funds and on January 21 he flew to Sydney for two days. He then flew to America and returned to New Zealand on February 9. Sergeant Robertson said Ritchie's luggage was searched when he arrived and he admitted having drugs concealed in wooden items in his suitcase. In a rolling pin and knife holder police found a total of 11,140 LSD tablets, with a street value of \$77,980. Also in the holder were 19.2 grams of cannabis and in a cutting board 31.2 grams of cocaine were found, valued at about \$10,000. Police inquiries into the importation were continuing. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 Feb 81 p 4]

CANNABIS COURIER SENTENCED--Two stereo speakers brought to New Zealand were packed with cannabis worth more than \$50,000, the High Court at Auckland heard yesterday. A 35-year-old carpenter, Allan Middlehurst, from Billinge, Lancashire, pleaded guilty to importing the cannabis in October 1977, and was yesterday sentenced to nine months' imprisonment by Justice Holland. The judge said Middlehurst had been used as a courier but he had known full well that he was a party to an offence. In passing sentence, Mr Justice Holland said he took into account that the accused had pleaded guilty and that he had spent three months in prison in England before his extradition and three months in prison in New Zealand. [Excerpts] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 28 Feb 81 p 4]

CANNABIS FARMER JAILED--A remote cannabis plantation spotted by helicopter in the Takaka hills west of Nelson led to an 18-month jail sentence being imposed in the High Court yesterday. Edwin Francis Dutch, 30, farmer, had pleaded guilty in the Nelson District Court to two charges of possessing cannabis for supply and of cultivating cannabis. Mr Justice Ongley said it was a sophisticated enterprise in a fairly remote area and difficult to detect. There was an elaborate set-up involving considerable planning and preparation. [Excerpt] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 14 Feb 81 p 6]

CHRISTCHURCH CANNABIS SEIZURES--The Christchurch police have seized more than 2000 cannabis plants this summer. "This is more plants than last year. A lot are in small plots in riverbeds," said Detective Senior-Sergeant R.A. Meikle. The most popular growing spots were isolated parts of the Ashley and Waimakariri riverbeds. December was the biggest month for hauls of cannabis. The police found two big plots of 200 and 400 plants. But these hauls were small compared with two made on the West Coast early this year. About 1400 plants were uprooted from one spot and 500 at another. [Excerpt] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 6 Feb 81 p 1]

WHITIANGA CANNABIS HAUL--Hamilton--An estimated 10 kilograms of processed cannabis worth about \$10,000, was seized in a drugs raid by police in Whitianga over the weekend. Five search warrants were executed on houses in Whitianga and one in Tairua on Friday night and Saturday, resulting in two arrests. Whitianga police and drugs detectives from Hamilton discovered the cannabis haul packed in bundles in one house. About 50 cannabis plants were also found. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 16 Feb 81 p 3]

WEST COAST CANNABIS HAUL--The Greymouth C.I.B. has seized more than 1100 cannabis plants, most of them 2m to 3m in height, in the last week. The plants were found growing in Blackball, along the Coast Road, and near Moana. They weighed in total 300 kilograms, and had a basic value of \$200 a kilogram, or more than \$60,000. However, broken down into small quantities, they would be worth much more "than you and I would earn in a lifetime," according to a C.I.B. spokesman. No arrests have been made, but inquiries are continuing. More than 3 000 plants have been seized on the West Coast this year, and the police have urged people to report any discoveries of cannabis growing in isolated areas. [Text] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 17 Feb 81 p 2]

CSO: 5320

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS SEIZED, SEVEN HELD--Sargodha, March 4--The City Police have arrested six persons including a chemist for possessing large quantity of contraband charas, opium, wine and running two distilleries. According to City Inspector, Ch. Mohd Khan, a person Salifullah of Mianwali, was intercepted while carrying six and a half seers of contraband charas and opium worth about Rs. 20,000. His Vespa scooter was impounded. Meanwhile, in a surprise raid, Mushtaq, Yousaf, Pitrus and Alfred of Tariqabad were arrested allegedly for running distilleries and a large quantity of contraband wine was recovered from their possession. Syed Irfan Shah, a chemist of Mohallah Maqamehyat was also arrested for allegedly possessing one gallon of liquor.--PPI [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Mar 81 p 6]

CSO: 5300

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

GANJA DESTROYED--The Police and Air Force, who were conducting joint combing-out operations in the jungles of Kataragama and Wellawaya over the weekend, detected over 50 acres of illicitly cultivated ganja. They had uprooted and burnt over two lakhs of plants, a Police spokesman said yesterday. The Narcotics Bureau and the Police Task Force units joined hands with the Air Force to wipe out at least 75 per cent of the ganja cultivations in these areas, police said. Police believe certain key businessmen are behind the cultivation of ganja. Some of them are mudalalis from Dickwella, Matara, Wennappuwa, Grandpass and Pettah. [Text] [Colombo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 24 Feb 81 p 1]

CSO: 5300

CANADA

BRIEFS

DRUG DEALER SENTENCED--A Mersea Township man was sentenced in provincial court Monday to six months in jail after he pleaded guilty to trafficking in cocaine and having other drugs for sale. Daniel Robert DeBergh, 22, was one of eight persons arrested Oct. 22 following a four-month investigation by the RCMP which netted about \$40,000 worth of drugs. Last June 17 DeBergh sold two grams of cocaine to an RCMP undercover agent for \$250 and on Sept. 4 made another two-gram sale for \$220. DeBergh admitted making the sales but disputed evidence that during the second sale he and the buyer discussed a deal for splitting an ounce of the drug. When he was arrested at his home, a strip search revealed DeBergh was carrying 100 hits of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) in his underwear. He pleaded guilty to possession of LSD for the purpose of trafficking. A fourth charge, trafficking in hashish, was withdrawn. [Text] [Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 10 Mar 81 p 6]

CS0: 5320



ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER IMPRISONED, EXPELLED--Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (NA)--The executive branch has ordered the expulsion of Paraguayan citizen Francisco Ignacio Peralta who has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for drug trafficking. Peralta will be expelled after he has served his sentence. [PY252247 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1335 GMT 18 Mar 81 PY]

CSO: 5300

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE FACTORY, ARRESTS--The National Directorate of Dangerous Substances has reported that it has discovered a cocaine factory in Villa Santiago, El Alto, La Paz, and arrested Pedro Zegarra Choque and Roberto Gutierrez Huarco, seizing 400 grams of cocaine hydrochloride. [PY251517 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Mar 81 p 10 PY]

TWO COCAINE FACTORIES--La Paz, 6 Mar (TELAM)--Col Moises Schiriqui Bejarano, commander of the Rangers Regiment of Santa Cruz, has reported that his unit has discovered two cocaine factories in Santa Cruz, the report indicates that 400 men worked day and night in the 2 factories producing about 60 kilograms of cocaine per day each. The factories belong to Roger Mendez and Amado Nallar. The security forces also found cattle, tractors, jeeps and an airfield on the property. [PY251517 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1330 GMT 7 Mar 81 PY]

COCA LEAVES SEIZED--The Bolivian armed forces have reported seizing 30,000 kilograms of coca leaves in different parts of La Paz contained in 610 barrels, 621 bags and 139 bundles. [PY251517 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Feb 81 p 3 PY]

MORE COCA LEAVES SEIZED--La Paz, 17 Mar (AFP)--Maj Luis Cossio, chief of the Department for Control and Marketing of Coca Leaves, has reported that his department has seized 80,000 kilograms of coca leaves in Sacaba, Cochabamba, worth approximately \$1.3 million on the Santa Cruz market. The official commented that the seized coca leaves could have produced 600 kilograms of cocaine. [PY251517 Paris AFP in Spanish 1532 GMT 17 Mar 81 PY]

COCA PLANTATIONS--The Agriculture, Livestock and Peasant Affairs Ministry has reported that the peasants of the Chapare region are increasingly planting coca instead of rice and citrus. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Mar 81 PY]

COCAINE MANUFACTURERS ON TRIAL--The 8th Army Division, stationed at Santa Cruz, has handed over to the courts for trial 11 persons involved in cocaine processing at 2 laboratories discovered along the Santa Cruz-Camiri Highway. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 81 PY]

CSO: 5300

CHILE

BRIEFS

COCAINE LABORATORIES DISCOVERED--Police officers of the Fifth Brigade of Narcotics Investigation have arrested four persons who have been accused of trafficking in cocaine. Along with the arrest of these persons, three laboratories for the processing of the drug were dismantled. According to what was reported yesterday at the Fifth Brigade headquarters, the traffickers are Fernando Pincheira Albrecht, 21 years of age; his father, Rolando Pincheira Valladares, 45 years of age, who has a civil police record as a drug trafficker and swindler; Juan Parra Rios, 29 years of age; and Romulo Ayala Valenzuela, who has a history as a drug user and trafficker. Investigators established that Pincheira Albrecht, at his father's instigation, was engaged in selling bags of cocaine in several brothels and night spots in the capital. Two of his steady customers were arrested persons Parra Rios and Ayala Valenzuela who were surprised while in possession of 35 grams of narcotics which were the last purchase made from Pincheira Albrecht, to whom they had paid 1,500 pesos per gram for the drug. The civilian police stated that Ayala Parra drove a pickup truck in which the traffickers traveled from Valparaiso to Santiago for the purpose of acquiring the cocaine, which they transferred and concealed in the vehicle. The drug was processed in clandestine laboratories, located at different points in the Fifth Region, which were supplied by traffickers in the northern part of the country. In addition to the arrest of several persons implicated in the affair, the police seized a large quantity of the laboratory apparatus and of products destined for the processing of cocaine hydrochloride at three clandestine laboratories located in Limache, Villa Alemana and Valparaiso. The persons arrested were placed under the jurisdiction of the Fourth Criminal Court. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Feb 81 p C-5] 9204

COCAINE FACTORY--Police forces dismantled a laboratory for processing cocaine in Vina Del Mar and arrested its owner, (Juan Munoz Holler), alias El Professor, who confessed he was the head of a ring of drug traffickers who operated throughout Chile. [PY171911 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 81]

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA, OTHER CONTRABAND AFFECT MONEY MARKET

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 6 Feb 81 Sec A p 9

[Text] Even though the Colombian exchange situation began to improve appreciably starting in 1968, when President Carlos Lleras established the fluctuating exchange system (with the fluctuation always in an upward direction), the dollar reserves grew rapidly only after December 1975, when coffee prices started to rise and marihuana exporting became very good business. In November 1975, the gross international reserves totaled \$483.5 million, and in December 1980 they registered the sum of \$5.4157 billion; in other words, an increase of nearly \$5 billion in 5 years, or an average of \$1 billion per year.

This increase in reserves was a headache for the finance ministers during the period 1976-80. Since the Colombian system for controlling exchange requires the sale of foreign currency to the Bank of the Republic, which pays for it with peso issues, as the dollars were generated, the medium of exchange, or money in circulation, increased, and hence so did the demand and inflation. The authorities did everything possible to discourage the entry of dollars. There was even a phrase circulating that had been coined by a clever coffee grower, calling the windows at which dollars were purchased an "unlucky teller's window." Colombian imagination in monetary affairs reached its height with the development of Dr Abdon Espinosa's "exchange certificates" system, which established a multiple exchange system subsidizing imports and discouraging exports (it was not applied to the new exports). The rendering of services abroad was penalized, and these certificates were converted in a manner that served to sterilize a large volume of money.

Moreover, the period for the remittance of dollars for purchases abroad was reduced, so that the dollars would be used quickly, with a limit of 150 days. The import deposit, the sale of stock certificates and other sterilizing systems were established.

Now, in 1981, the situation has begun to change and, judging from the figures, it would appear to be doing so rapidly. The price of coffee has declined, the marihuana trade has been depressed, and the system of coffee quotas has cut the export volume and eliminated the contraband that we were engaged in through Curacao. And all this has an will have appreciable effects, as we shall observe, both on the exchange rate and on the structure of Colombia's international trade.

In 1980, the average reimbursement for coffee for the entire year was \$1.34 per pound, and 11.1 million bags were exported; which produced \$1.985 billion. In 1981, it is

estimated that 9.2 million 60-kilogram bags of coffee will be exported (plus several more thousand to countries with payment that does not affect our rating), with a product, according to the experts, of no more than \$1.2185 billion. In other words, in 1981, the receipts from coffee alone will be reduced by \$766.5 million, unless there is another frost in Brazil during July and August, which would change these calculations.

Furthermore, according to reports from a Colombian newspaper, the price of marihuana has dropped 70 percent, a figure confirmed by experts on the coast. The dollars that fail to enter Colombia for this reason are virtually impossible to count, but they are many, and may amount to hundreds of millions. And not only has the price been reduced, but also it is quite certain that there will be a reduction in the amount exported; because, previously, the North American buyers would run the risk and come to Colombia to purchase the grass, whereas now it will be Colombians who will have to travel in order to market the commodity in the United States.

But actually, what will most affect the Colombian exchange situation is without doubt capital turnover. A large number of Colombian business firms, faced with the impossibility of obtaining internal credit and of supporting their business, have resorted to direct credit abroad. These figures are very large. In addition, many Colombians and foreigners, since money produced considerably more in Colombia than in the United States, because the interest not only covered modifications in the exchange rate, but also left a remainder that could be divided, brought capital and after selling it on the black market, lent it at interest. This capital turnover, both in credit and investment, is very common all over the world. When the interest rate in a country rises, for example, such as now in the United States, the capital from other countries goes seeking higher interest. And the situation works in the reverse direction. The increase in interest and the return on capital in the United States will cause a great deal of money that exists in Colombia both in the form of credit and investment to return to that country. And when the black dollar begins to rise, and it surely will rise within a short time, everyone will run to the market to buy before the rise becomes greater, and will naturally exert considerable pressure for the hike. For all the foregoing reasons, there should be little doubt that the black dollar, which remained under the official exchange rate all these years, will soon exceed the latter. In other words, in a month or a little more, there will be very appreciable rises in the price of the black dollar that is being freely negotiated throughout the country.

It is obvious that the rise in the black dollar will immediately affect that market, and it is possible that there will be an increase in contraband of exports of certain products, such as sugar, in the sales of commodities over the Venezuelan and Ecuadorean borders and, later on, in the price of official market imports, wherein it would not be worthwhile to underbill any longer and, in addition, there will be a reduction in the official income for services. But this is so extensive that we shall leave the analysis of other effects for next week.

2909  
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS, 40 KILOS OF COCAINE SEIZED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 29 Jan 81 Sec A p 24

[Text] In an operation carried out in the vicinity of Suba, in northwest Bogota, members of the Antinarcotics Group attached to the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation seized 40 kilograms of cocaine with a high degree of purity, and captured three drug traffickers with international connections.

In the same operation, five late-model cars which had been equipped to conceal drugs were confiscated.

The action took place at the El Amarredero gas station, located a mere 100 meters from the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] academy, in Suba.

Those captured were identified as Jose Fernando Bernal Santacoloma, Jose Felipe Vargas Useche and Guillermo Cepeda Mendoza.

Vehicles Seized

The vehicles that were seized include a truck with license plates AI-1319, two Toyotas with license plates ND-0730 and KA-4712, a Datsun sports car and a Nissan with automatic transmission.

It was reported that, so as not to arouse suspicion among the residents, the members of the ring arrived at the gas station in their luxury cars, with the pretext of going to eat or enjoy a drink while their vehicles were camouflaged to hide the drugs. When this work had been done, they disappeared from the scene, so as later to ship the cocaine abroad.

The coca was hidden in the front doors of the vehicles, in the upholstery and in the engine.

All of the foregoing was done about 1900 hours in the evening, a time when the section was without electric power.

Neighbors of DAS

The authorities were perplexed at the brazen manner in which the cocaine traffickers operated, since it did not matter to them at all that the "center of operations"

was located a mere 100 meters from the academy of one of the top-ranking state security agencies.

The members of the Antinarcotics Group are conducting the respective investigation aimed at locating the whereabouts of the other members of the ring.

It was also reported that the site was visited by various individuals who went there for the purpose of supplying themselves with small amounts for personal use.



Jose Fernando Bernal, Jose Felipe Vargas Useche and Guillermo Cepeda Mendoza, who were captured with 40 kilograms of cocaine.

2909  
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COLOMBIA

ARMY CORPORAL, CIVILIANS SEIZED WITH MARIHUANA

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 27 Jan 81 Sec A p 25

[Text] A second corporal of the National Army, identified as Jose Gonzalo Franco Castillo, and private citizens Sergio Orgaciza and Guillermo Coronel Rodriguez were captured by a police patrol when they were riding in a Ford 350 truck in which they were transporting 13 bales of pressed marihuana, 5 carbines and a pistol.

The capture of the drug traffickers took place in the locality of La Ye, in the jurisdiction of the Guajira section of San Juan, in the course of an operation carried out by several police units last weekend.

In addition to the marihuana shipment, the agents seized the truck, three M-1 carbines, a San Cristobal carbine, a 22-caliber carbine and a Beretta pistol.

As a result of the first investigative action, it was established that Franco Castillo, the second corporal included among those captured, who was wearing his regular uniform, belongs to the Rondon Cavalry group with headquarters in Buenavista.

2909

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COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED AT AIRPORT--Units from the Antinarcotics Group of the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation seized a shipment of 5 kilograms of cocaine, which had been concealed in two suitcases with false bottoms, at the El Dorado airport. The new blow at the drug traffic took place at 0800 hours Tuesday morning, when the individual carrying the two bags, who was captured and identified as Ricardo Hernandez Londono, of Colombian nationality, was about to take off for San Juan, Puerto Rico, on SAM flight 502. The accused was sent to the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] to be turned over to the pertinent judge, while the alkaloid shipment was stored in a security vault in the Attorney General's Office until its destruction is ordered. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 29 Jan 81 Sec A p 16] 2909

JAILED TRAFFICKER ELECTROCUTED--An inmate of the National Model Jail who had been arrested for drug trafficking died as a result of electrocution inside the jail yesterday afternoon. Hernan Paramo, aged 31, made contact with a cable while a short-circuit was occurring. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Feb 81 Sec C p 6] 2909

CSO: 5300

CUBA

GARCIA MEZA, ARCE CONNECTION WITH DRUGS NOTED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 22 Feb 81 p 5

[Article by Joaquin Rivery]

[Text]

● SEVERAL WEEKS after the Bolivian coup d'etat of July 17, 1980, the two Luises in power — Luis Garcia Meza and Luis Arce Gomez — went into a series of tantrums that would have put the worst spoiled brat to shame. The cause of the uproar was that it had been made known all over the world that the two of them and their "ministers" had been accused of controlling the country's traffic in cocaine.

The two Luises responded by announcing an all-out offensive against narcotics. They gave the news agencies "scoops" about arrests and "seizures" of large amounts of cocaine.

But it seems as if all their efforts to cover up were of no avail. Only a few days ago, the Spanish news agency EFE made it known that Bolivia gets a 60-percent cut of the 2000 million dollars made each year from the illegal traffic of cocaine between Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia. That's 1200 million dollars, more or less.

It's true that many persons have been arrested and accused of trafficking in cocaine. Since July of last year, Bolivia's jails have been packed with poor peasants who had been growing coca.

It's not "justice's" fault if the peasants acted on their own instead of dealing with the agents of the two Luises. They're fighting stiff competition in the narcotics market. As for the rest of the story, read the news dispatch that follows:

"LA PAZ, Bolivia, February 9 (AFP). — Bolivia now has 50 new millionaires thanks to the fabulous profit in cocaine traffic, according to a report issued here today by the International Narcotics Control Board."

Naturally, the Board does not reveal names. But if the two Luises and their "aides" have become wealthy, we can assure you that none of them is new at this kind of business, because they've been in it for quite some time. However, they must be given due respect, because, after all, one of the Luises — Garcia Meza — is the president of the country, and the other one — Arce Gomez — is the minister of the interior.

● Joaquin Rivery



CSO: 3020

PANAMA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SMUGGLER ARRESTED--Jose Roberto Munoz, a Chilean citizen living in Brazil, was arrested at Tocumen Airport on 26 February with 600 grams of cocaine in bags attached to his body. Munoz said he was paid \$3,000 to take the narcotic to Guatemala. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 6 Mar 81 PA]

COCAINE SMUGGLING--Narcotics agents arrested U.S. citizen Robert Jay Gonzalez at Tocumen Airport on 10 March. Plastic bags containing approximately 1.5 kg of cocaine, which he said he bought for \$7,000 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, were found in his luggage. Gonzalez was en route to Nassau. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Mar 81 p 4-A PA]

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

EDITORIAL VOICES CONCERN OVER DRUG TRAFFIC PENETRATION

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 8 Feb 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Here Come the Drugs"]

[Text] Last week the authorities chalked up several police successes by seizing cocaine whose value on the streets of Caracas has been estimated at several million bolivars. This drug, which represents the most recent triumph of Bolivian, Peruvian and Colombian drug traffickers, is now also being processed in Brazil, where Manaus has been identified as a processing and distribution center. Thus Venezuela is virtually surrounded by countries which produce and export "white snow," which is still being sent preferably to the United States, the Caribbean area and Western Europe. The pressure to penetrate the potentially lucrative Venezuelan market has been unrelenting and without doubt--in many cases--successful. As a rule, it has been estimated that the amount which reaches the users or addicts is equal to the amount seized, thus establishing the cycle of dependency which becomes stronger and stronger.

Up to now Venezuela has been a market with an appetite, but under control. The traffic of hallucinogens, marihuana and other narcotics, of hard and soft drugs, has remained relatively stable, without spectacular ups and downs. Recent activity shows, however, that the narcotics traffickers are fixing their attention on Venezuela with growing interest. In other countries control measures are making the drug business a more and more risky enterprise, for which reason markets are sought whose penetration offers fewer obstacles. Under present conditions, the Venezuelan authorities involved are not adequately prepared to confront the onslaught of the international drug traffic. And if the necessary preventive steps are not taken there could well be--in the not too distant future--a drug addiction epidemic in Caracas and in the principal cities in the country.

9204

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

POLICE ACTION NETS 17 ARRESTS OF TRAFFICKERS, USERS

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 8 Feb 81 Sec 4 p 38

[Text] The metropolitan police have announced the capture of 17 drug traffickers and consumers in the course of an operation carried out in different sectors of Caracas and the District of Sucre.

The press office of the metropolitan police has reported that the majority of those apprehended had a record for the same crimes and that a large number of Mandrax capsules and bags of marihuana, which they had ready for distribution, were seized from them.

The press office stated that some of the arrested persons were identified as: Tony Ramon Lopez Romero, 25 years of age; Henan Cipriano Paraquimo Villegas, 32 years of age; Victor Manuel Ulacio Alvarado, 23 years of age; Richard Oswaldo Mejias, 21 years of age; and Freddy Antonio Martinez Pinto, 32 years of age. All have been arrested several times by the metropolitan police command in Cotiza.

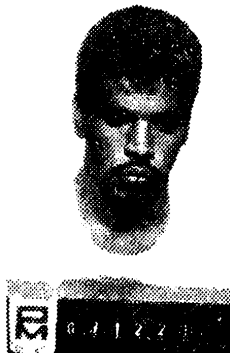
It was also reported that the 17 persons were arrested in the parishes of La Vega, El Valle, El Recreo, Sucre, La Pastora, Antimanos and in Petare, District of Sucre.

The chief of the Intelligence Division of the metropolitan police stated that the persons mentioned will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Antinarcotics and Interpol Division of the Judicial Technical Police.

He also announced that the officers under his command will continue this antidrug operation in order to achieve true social health in all sections of the metropolitan area.



Hernán Cipriano Paraquimo



Richard Oswaldo Mejias



Tony Ramón Romero

9204  
CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

TWO TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The Intelligence Division of the metropolitan police arrested two persons yesterday at dawn who were accused of selling hallucinogenic substances. A large quantity of Mandrax and of marihuana was found in the possession of those arrested, who have been identified as Viera Gonzalez and Nestor Navarro. The arrest of the two presumed traffickers took place on the main avenue of Palo Verde, Petare. The authorities are processing the case and will then pass it on to the courts responsible for meting out punishment for drug trafficking. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 9 Feb 81 Sec 4 p 36] 9204

CSC: 5300

IRAN

BRIEFS

400 KILOS OPIUM SEIZED--Tehran, 22 Feb--Iranian Revolutionary Guards Saturday confiscated 400 kilogrammes (880 pounds) of opium and shot a person dead in a raid on a narcotics ring in the western Iranian city of Nahavand, state radio said. It said the Guards arrested two others during the operation which involved exchanges of gunfire. The radio said the ring was one of the biggest in the country. Iran, where opium is grown and which lies on one of the drug-trafficking routes from South-East Asia to the West, has long had a serious addiction problem. Past estimates have put the number of addicts at up to two million, or one in 18 of the population. Hundreds of people have been sent to firing squads for drug dealing in the two years since the Iranian revolution. But the number of executions has dropped since Islamic Judge Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali resigned as head of an anti-drugs strike force last December. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 24 Feb 81 p 4]

CSO: . 5300



DJIBOUTI

CABINET HALTS SPECULATION IN QAT

Djibouti LA NATION DJIBOUTI in French 19 Feb 81 p 1, 12

[Article: "Cabinet Halts Speculation about Qat Commerce"]

[Text] The Council of Ministers met on Tuesday under the chairmanship of H. E. Hassan Gouled Aptidon and discussed at length the problem that is dominating Djiboutian trade, the commercialization of qat.

The Council of Ministers decided to return to commercial freedom in importing qat as of 1 March 1981. Every licensed Djiboutian, association or company, may import qat by air, land or railroad. If imports are less than 8,000 kgs per day, they will be seized and destroyed. The net weight of a qat bundle remains at 100 grams for a fixed price of 200 Djibouti francs.

The minister of Trade, Transport and Tourism is charged with concluding conventions with Ethiopian authorities to make the importation process go smoothly.

The minister of Finance and National Economy is instructed to control the daily weight brought into Djibouti (which must be no less than 8,000 kgs) and to levy import taxes. The minister of Interior is instructed to supervise the prices imposed on qat bundles and also to find a site fit for a market.

Moreover, the following projects were discussed:

--Prime Minister Responsible for the Port

A draft bill appointing a state comptroller and a commissioner at the Autonomous International Free-Port of Djibouti. Passed.

Mr Luc Aden, national treasurer, is nominated as state comptroller of the free-port of Djibouti, and Mr Bourhan Ali Mohamed, the prime minister's cabinet director, is also nominated as state commissioner of the free-port of Djibouti. The two nominations are consistent with Law No 148/AN/80 of 16 November 1980 establishing the statutes of the free international port of Djibouti.

--Minister of Interior

A draft bill aimed at organizing the central administration of the interior ministry. Passed.

The Cabinet expressed a favorable opinion of the draft bill which modifies the present administrative structures of the ministry with the view of adapting them to the economic, social, administrative and political changes experienced by the Republic of Djibouti since its independence on 27 June 1977.

A draft decree fixing the amount of qualified indemnities allocated the FNS agents. Passed.

A draft decree enforcing deliberation No 1-81 of 16 February 1981 of the administrative council on the Postal and Telecommunication Office approving the first decision amending the 1981 budget. Passed.

This is the first deliberation amending the Postal and Telecommunication Office budget for fiscal year 1981.

--Minister of Justice

A draft decree aimed at nominating a cadi for Djibouti. Passed.

It was recalled that Mr Mogueh Dirir Samatar, who acted as locum tenens during a whole year, gave complete satisfaction in his post. The present draft aims at confirming him in his post.

Oman Greets Djibouti's "Peaceful Policy"

The Minister of National Defense, Mr Habib Mohamed Lofta, briefed the Cabinet on his visit to Oman while leading an important Djiboutian delegation at the invitation of Oman's defense minister.

Mr Habib Mohamed Lofta and the delegation accompanying him received a warm and brotherly welcome. The Sultan of Oman granted them an audience during which they discussed the strengthening of their bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

During his stay in Oman, the minister of national defense pointed out the neutrality and peaceful politics of Djibouti's young republic. He also expressed the young republic's desire to see the Eastern Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean become a peaceful zone without any interference.

Non-Alignment for the Progress of Humanity

In his turn, Mr Idriss Farah Abaneh, minister of Interior, briefed the Cabinet on his participation, as the head of an important delegation, at the Conference of the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers which was held in New Delhi from 9 to 12 February 1981.

After the adoption of many resolutions related to Kampuchea, Afghanistan, the Iraq-Iran conflict, the Middle East, Namibia, the Indian Ocean, the international economic situation, and the International Conference on African Refugees, the ministers adopted the Delhi Appeal in which they recalled the historical contribution of the founder of non-aligned politics and the movement of non-aligned countries which have brought progress to humanity.

They launched an appeal to the people of the world to unite forces to maintain peace and international security.

The ministerial delegation which visited the Tajourah water plant informed the Cabinet of their observations on its functioning.

This plant, which is still working, maintains a 3-month stock before the water is sold commercially.

Mr Ali Mohamade Houned, minister of Industry and Industrial Administration, also briefed the Cabinet on the water problem between Ouea and Arta.

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CSO: 5300

DJIBOUTI

BRIEFS

HASH, OPIUM SEIZED--In the capital, the national gendarmerie on Monday seized more than 4 kilos of hash and many dozen grams of opium on two individuals who were selling the products illicitly. The inquiry continues, and responsible sources at the gendarmerie affirmed that--although this was the third seizure they have carried out since the beginning of the year, they are still convinced that many other channels exist. The hash, which comes from Ethiopian reaches Djibouti concealed in jute bags or in milk boxes either on camel's backs or by train. [Text] [Djibouti LA NATION DJIBOUTI in French 12 Feb 81 p 5] 9765

CS0: 5300

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ISTANBUL-FRANKFURT-BERLIN HEROIN RING BROKEN UP

West Berlin DER TAGESSPIEGEL in German 14 Feb 81 p 8

[Text] In cooperation with the American drug agency DEA, the Turkish police and the Federal Criminal Police Bureau (BKA), a joint customs and police commission has succeeded in breaking an international narcotics ring. The ring had been smuggling heroin by air from Istanbul via Frankfurt to Berlin. With the help of American and German narcotics agents the heroin supplier was arrested by Turkish police in Istanbul on 9 February. A total of 510 grams of the drug were confiscated at the time.

According to a spokesman of the Berlin narcotics bureau, intensive observation of a 26-year-old man with free passage in and out of the open Dueppel prison put police on the trail of the smuggling ring. By mid-January the police had been watching the 26-year-old and ascertained that he was looking to set up new heroin deals from the jail. The man was in Dueppel for infractions of the narcotics law. The police discovered that he was looking for a courier for heroin shipments from Turkey to Berlin. In his search he came across a 26-year-old Pole from Warsaw, known on the Berlin drug scene, for whose arrest a warrant had already been issued for breaking the narcotics law.

In spite of the warrant, the police have only now been able to arrest the Pole. He had already organized frequent smuggling flights on the Istanbul-Frankfurt-Berlin route. After the man from Dueppel had run into him, both of them were seen to be very active on the Berlin-Frankfurt-Istanbul line. At this point the Berlin police informed the Turkish national police. In addition, an official was dispatched from the DEA, the American federal criminal narcotics agency, and the BKA to enable the arrest of the heroin supplier to be made. A 36-year-old Turk was arrested on 9 February in Istanbul, as 510 grams of heroin were being delivered.

This Turk had already been sentenced twice in the FRG for the smuggling and sale of heroin and finally deported. He resisted arrest, resulting in serious injury to three Turkish policemen. However, he was not able to use his gun. Two Berlin officials, one from customs and one from the narcotics bureau, interrogated him in Istanbul. According to the police, the man made a full confession. He admitted to having smuggled about 2.9 kg of heroin by air via Frankfurt to Berlin before 9 February.

Following this police action, the Pole, who was known as a courier, was arrested on 11 February in an apartment in Reinickendorf. The judge conducting the hearing issued new warrants against him and the 26-year-old who has access to Dueppel.

#### Others Also Supplied

In this connection a link was known to exist between the Pole and the Istanbul supplier and a group of narcotics dealers who had been arrested on 14 July last year. The police had confiscated 2,315 grams of heroin in their possession. Five of these men, among them a Turk, were yesterday given prison sentences of between 4 and 8 years by the 24th Chamber for dealing in narcotics.

#### Specially Prepared Suitcases

As a spokesman of the narcotics bureau explained, the heroin smuggling was carried out in specially prepared suitcases. The heroin was in 2 mm-thick foil packages in the sides of the suitcase. Drug-detecting dogs failed to find the hiding place. The suitcases had to be smashed to get to the packages containing the heroin. According to the police, the smugglers chose the route via Frankfurt because smuggling is considerably easier in busy Frankfurt Airport than on direct flights on charter aircraft from Istanbul to Berlin.

9581

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

ALGERIANS ARRESTED AT VITRY WITH THAI HEROIN

Paris LE FIGARO in French 23 Feb 81 p 11

[Article by Jean Paillardin: "Two Kilograms of Heroin Seized at Vitry (Val-de-Marne)--'Snow' in the Suburbs"]

[Text] So, here we have another one of those drug busts involving Algerian immigrants in the Paris region. This time it was at Vitry-sur-Seine (Val-de-Marne). And although it did not reach the political dimensions of the affair at Montigny, it is as a matter of fact much more serious because it involves 2 kilograms of perfectly pure white heroin. That is enough to poison 50,000 persons.

It all began with the arrest, at Montreuil, of a middleman by the name of Jean Ielsch who mostly deals in cocaine, but who, if necessary, does not shy away from purchasing and reselling other narcotics.

Last Wednesday, officers from the Narcotics Squad apprehended him in his office, took him to Orfevres Quay but, quite by chance, left a "little surprise" in his room. That of course is SOP.

An hour later, the bell rang. Two visitors. They were so surprised to see the police officers that they did not think of resisting. One of them was a pimp who was of no interest to the police. His name was Jean-Luc Peudecoeur and his job was to establish contact between Ielsch, the middleman, and the other visitor, a young Algerian, by the name of Rashid Ali, 26, who obviously is a supplier because in his pockets officers found a small pouch containing 40 grams of white heroin.

That same evening, three inspectors searched the apartment which he shared on Solidarite Street, at Vitry-sur-Seine (Val-de-Marne) with his father, his mother, his three sisters, and his younger brother, Abdelkader.

They were very badly received. The entire Ali family understood what the situation was when they saw Rashid with his handcuffs on. Very quickly the situation changed from a cold atmosphere to cursing and then to blows. The mother and the three daughters were the most unrestrained. They tried to prevent the police officers from entering and then from approaching Abdelkader. And they kept howling. They made so much noise that, in the section where the building stands, clusters of people formed outside and their curiosity rapidly turned into hostility toward the "cops." It took the arrival of a squad car, which the inspectors had asked for by radio from Creteil, to restore relative calm and to enable the police officers to continue their investigations. But Abdelkader disappeared amid all the hubbub and

the Ali family would practically have won the game if one of the inspectors had not seen the young man throw a package out the window upon their arrival. The package was found and it contained 1,800 kilograms of white heroin as pure as the one that is manufactured by the laboratories in Marseille. "Snow"--as the experts call it.

Looking at the visas on the passports, the leader of the agent team was able to tell that these two young fellows had gone to Bangkok on several occasions. They did so the last time in December of last year. That is when Rashid Alid confessed. But only that which he could not possibly deny. He did indeed go to Thailand with his brother. As tourists. Only the last time did each of them bring back one kilogram of heroin, partly for their personal use. It must be noted in passing that all traffickers declare that they themselves are users.

The warmth of the reception given the inspectors on Solidarite Street proves obviously that the entire Ali family was "in on this caper" with the exception of the father, a retiree from the EDF [French Electric Power Corporation] who did not have the right to raise the slightest objection or enter the room of his sons--otherwise he would get a beating.

Rashid Ali, Peudecoeur, and Ielsch were ordered held by the Creteil prosecutor's office.

#### Disquieting Statistics

The rise in drug traffic follows a rising curve which worries the police. The statistics speak for themselves, without any need for comments.

In the Paris region alone in 1980, following were seized: 21.5 kilograms of heroin, as against 3.8 kilograms in 1978. And 1,320 traffickers were charged, as against 600 in 1978.

Furthermore, 64 persons died of overdoses as against 24 in 1978.

Looking at the statistics for all of France, they are even more eloquent: 172 deaths due to overdose as against 117 in 1979; 3,351 users counted as against 2,326 in 1979; 5,013 investigations and 10,958 arrests, including 278 international traffickers, 493 local traffickers, 2,423 combined users and middlemen, and 7,764 drug addicts.

The following were also seized on French territory in 1980: 105 kilograms of opium, 5.5 kilograms of base morphine, 9.5 kilograms of pure morphine, 72 kilograms of white or brown heroin, 58 kilograms of cocaine, 14,275 doses of LSD, 100 kilograms of cannabis oil, and more than 7 tons of hashish.





Rashin Ali (on the right) and his brother Abdelkader; they had gone to get supplies in Thailand.

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CSO: 5300

FRANCE

LATIN AMERICAN CONNECTION IN COCAINE, OTHER DRUG SEIZURES

Paris LE FIGARO in French 2 Mar 81 p 9

[Article by Irina de Chikoff (Survey by Daniel Curzi): "Two Important Hauls at Nice and Roissy--The Cocaine Route"]

[Text] Customs officers at the Nice airport Saturday afternoon seized 2 kilograms of pure cocaine from an Air France flight passenger coming from Rio de Janeiro. This haul came a short time after those at Roissy. In both cases, the traffickers charged are South Americans. So, today we speak of a "Latin connection." But there is also talk of the "Sicilian connection" because one of the key men involved here, Frank Coppola, was arrested in Rome.

Francisco Leonardo Margalio, 39, deplaned, accompanied by a young woman, from an aircraft coming from Rio de Janeiro. Customs officers were waiting for him at the Nice airport. Wearing a navy-blue suit with white pinstripes and a shirt with a ruffled front, the man was asked by customs officers to follow him. Under his shirt, he wore a flannel corset with pockets. In those pockets he had three pouches of cocaine or 2 kilograms of that drug. With that amount, the "chemists" would make 200,000 doses which would then be sold at F 100 each.

Just 2 days later, at Roissy, customs officers had apprehended six traffickers, also South Americans, carrying 27 kilograms of cocaine in those same flannel vests. The total value of these hauls was estimated F 15 million.

Little information has since then filtered out on these hauls and on the unusual route of the drug via South America. At the same time, the narcotics division of the Argentine Federal Police in Buenos Aires arrested 14 traffickers and seized 1,300 kilograms of coca leaves. The drug apparently came from Bolivia and was headed for Switzerland.

"Latin Connection"

Last Friday, customs officers at the Cayenne airport also charged two traffickers. In their double-bottom suitcases, they found pouches contained 3.6 kilograms of cocaine. Over the weekend, police officers in Italy arrested 22 persons, seized 5 kilograms of heroin and 1.250 kilograms of hashish. Perhaps all of these cases somehow fit together.

We know that international traffic over the years and along with the investigations changes its routes, switches its traffic centers around, and reorganizes its networks. Thus, Venezuela, which so far was not considered a relay country, has become "more than a bridge" between the south and the north of the American continent. The Venezuelan police recently seized 80 kilograms of 90-% pure heroin in a mansion in Caracas worth an estimated \$20 million. Six persons, Colombians and Venezuelans, were arrested but the boss of this "Latin Connection," a man by the name of Alejandro Caicedo Vasquez, better known in South America by the name of Rene Caicedo and considered the big boss of narcotics traffic worldwide, managed to escape.

#### Caracas--A Sorting Center

This "Latin Connection," with Caracas as the sorting and operations center, is a new thing on the endless list of successive "connections." Earlier it had been assumed that it serviced only North America but recent arrests in Nice and Roissy show that Latin America also supplies Europe.

Perhaps even stranger, all of these new events were preceded by the arrest, last week, of the man who for decades had been suspected of being one of the key men in drug traffic, Frank Coppola, alias "Frank Three Fingers" because he lost two fingers during an attempted holdup in the Thirties in the United States.

This little man of 82, often arrested but always released, was found by Italian police to have pure heroin on him. Following Frank Coppola, 30 persons were nabbed. And shortly afterward, in Italy, but also in Paris, Nice, Cayenne, Caracas and Buenos Aires, drug control operations were stepped up.

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CSO: 5300

FRANCE

BRIEFS

MORPHINE MANUFACTURERS SENTENCED--The French and Italian offenders, who were arrested in November 1979 after the Regional Service of the Judicial Police of Nice and Italian police officers, had broken up a base morphine processing laboratory in San-Remo, Italy (LE MONDE, 30 November 1979) were sentenced on Monday, 23 February, by that city's superior court. Jean-Claude Guillermet, 37, who at the time of his arrest used the alias Michel Diot, and Antoine Restori, 68, a chemist who was already working at the time of the French Connection, was sentenced respectively, to 29-1/2 years and 26 years of imprisonment. Their Italian accomplices, Magdalena Lavagna, 51, and Anita Zappa, 45, who had loaned the mansion where the laboratory was set up, were sentenced to 7 years in prison. A sentence of 27 years was handed down in absentia against Bernard Saliba, 35, of Tunisian nationality, who is a fugitive. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Feb 81 p 36] 5058

COCAINE SEIZURE--Eight kg of cocaine were seized this morning by Roissy Airport custom officers. The total value was more than 3 million francs. The cocaine was concealed in the suitcases of two Peruvians coming from Lima. Some 35 kg of cocaine have been seized at Roissy Airport since the beginning of the year, twice the amount seized during the same period last year. [LD241034 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 20 Mar 81 LD]

COCAINE SMUGGLING--Paris, 20 Mar (AFP)--Customs officers seized eight kilos (17 pounds) of cocaine worth about 3.1 million francs (625,000 dollars) from two travelers from Lima, Peru, arriving at Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport today, it was announced. The cocaine was stashed in a suitcase of a 20-year-old student and a retired 60-year-old customs' officer, both from Lima, Peru, the sources said. They also hid 150 grams in their shoes to sell for themselves, airport police added. Since the beginning of the year customs' officials at Charles de Gaulle have seized 35 kg (77 pounds) of cocaine--double last year at the same time--770 grams (1.5 pounds) of heroine and 170 grams (7 ounces) of morphine, in all said to be worth about 25,150,000 francs (over five million dollars). [Text] [NC201340 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 20 Mar 81]

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

TUG'S CAPTURE 'SMASHES INTERNATIONAL DRUGS RING'

'Sea Rover' Chased in Channel

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 7 Mar 81 p 3

[Article by Guy Rais]

[Text]

**B**BRITISH and French customs officers believe they have smashed a multi-million pound international drug smuggling ring with the capture of the 499-ton Panamanian registered tug Sea Rover following a dramatic chase in the Channel.

The tug, with a Dutch skipper and an eight-man crew, including an English deckhand, was escorted into Newhaven harbour riddled with bullet-holes after it was fired on by a French warship chasing it across the Channel.

As customs interrogated the skipper and crew, an Irishman was arrested in a raid in East London and taken to Newhaven.

Customs officers also went to Calais where French officials had arrested four Dutch nationals suspected of being connected with a drug smuggling ring.

It was revealed yesterday that the French, co-operating with both British and Dutch investigators, had been monitoring the tug since it left North Africa. When it entered French territorial waters, it was spotted by a French aircraft off Brest.

Later, despite a warning shot across its bows, the tug refused to stop and was chased towards the English coast as the French warship fired dozens of shots at the fleeing vessel.

Near Beachy Head, the tug was cornered by the British customs cutters Seeker and Challenger and escorted into Newhaven.

On board, a quantity of charred cannabis was found.

Giving details of the operation, code name Genever Two, Mr Conrad Graham, senior British customs investigating officer, said that charges were likely within the next 48 hours.

"The tug was chased for about two hours before being caught," he said. "She had sent out a May Day distress signal that she was on fire and sinking."

More than 100 British customs officers had taken part in the operation during the past two days, with the remainder of the British customs fleet on standby.

Six-month watch

"For the past six months, British, French and Dutch customs have been engaged in monitoring the movement of suspect vessels in their territorial waters."

Mr Graham said that early on Wednesday after a French customs aircraft spotted the Sea Rover off Brest, the tug's progress was carefully recorded as she left the Western Approaches into the Channel.

The following day in mid-Channel off Dungeness, the French customs cutter, Vent Daval, ordered the tug to stop. "When she failed to respond, the cutter opened fire, hitting the tug's superstructure."

After the tug's May Day and a further chase she was escorted into Newhaven.

Mr Graham said the tug had been challenged and fired on while in French waters. The crews of the British customs boats which had taken part in the operation were unarmed. A shotgun had been taken from the tug during the customs search.

The British crew member being held was named as Ronald Dawson, 34, formerly of Middleton, Lancs.

The skipper of the tug was Dutchman, Antonius Olijhoek. Other Dutch crew members being held are Christiaan Jansen, 27, a cook; Ernest Joustra, 44, Bertus Emau, 37, electrician, and Antonois Van Der

Puten, an engineer. Other crew members were Canadian Robert Morris, 31, an engineer, and two Moroccans.

#### 'Innocent' says skipper

As the skipper of the tug was led away handcuffed, with other members of the crew, he shouted out that he was innocent.

"There were no drugs aboard," he claimed. "We were on passage from Gibraltar to Holland when we were called on to stop.

"We were in international waters, so I kept going until they opened fire. My boat was hit by machine-gun bullets. No one was hurt because we took cover."

Lloyd's shipping intelligence said yesterday that the tug, built in 1949, was registered in Panama and owned by a company called Elfrink, of Haarlem, Holland. It is not known whether the tug was on charter to another company, or a group.

### Drugs Spotted in Channel

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 7 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

**B**ALES of cannabis have been found in an air-sea search of the Channel, Customs officials said yesterday.

The discovery follows the seizure of the 499-ton tug Sea Raven which was fired on by a French warship in a chase up the Channel on Thursday.

The tug, riddled with bullet holes, was searched by drug-sniffing dogs and a bale of cannabis, worth thousands of pounds on the street market, was discovered. Divers from Sussex police also made an underwater search of the vessel.

A large number of packages—possibly several thousand—

are thought to have been thrown overboard from the tug as it tried to elude its captors.

#### Like 'Whisky Galore'

A customs officer said: "The cannabis is bobbing about between Brighton and Eastbourne, but with Channel tides, we don't know where it will come ashore."

A fisherman at Newhaven said: "It is like scenes from the film 'Whisky Galore' in which Scottish Islanders helped themselves to whisky from a wreck."

Coastguards said anyone finding a package should report it to the police.

### Channel Cannabis Warning

London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 8 Mar 81 p 3

[Article by Charles Laurence]

[Text]

**A**NYONE trying to "cash in" on bales of cannabis expected to be watched-up along the South Coast by Channel tides in two days would get "their fingers badly burned," Customs officers said yesterday.

The warning came after an operation code named Geneva, and said to involve cannabis worth £2 million had climaxed in a Channel chase during which French customs launches opened fire.

Hundreds of British customs and police officers are keeping watch along the Sussex coast for bales of cannabis. Several had been recovered by last night.

A customs officer said: "There are likely to be a few people searching with a view to keeping any cannabis they may find to cash in."

Britain, France and Holland took part in Operation Geneva, which covered the North African coast, Gibraltar and through the Bay of Biscay to the English Channel.

It culminated in British customs officers boarding the ocean going tug Sea Rover outside Newhaven on Thursday and arresting her Dutch captain Antonious Olijhoek and his eight crew members, one of them British.

Yesterday they were charged at Newhaven police station with importing cannabis. An Irishman arrested in East London on Friday was also charged. They are due to appear in court tomorrow.

A custom's officer said: "We expect further charges and arrests shortly." Four Dutchmen arrested in Calais were expected to be charged in France this weekend.

Seamen To Face Court

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 9 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] The Dutch skipper and eight crew members of the Panamanian-registered tug Sea Rover, arrested after a chase in the English Channel, will appear before magistrates at Lewes, Sussex, today, charged with importing cannabis. Among those charged is Ronald Dawson, 33, from Middleton, Lancs.

Another man, Joseph Blaise Lawless, 38, a painter and decorator, of Integer Gardens, Leytonstone, will appear at Waltham Forest magistrates' court today, charged with possessing cannabis.

French authorities are questioning three Dutchmen arrested in Calais on suspicion of being connected with a drug ring. Customs officers and police yesterday continued their south coast search for packets of cannabis.

CSO: 5320

END